



# REPORT

## THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO TO THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

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DATE ISSUED: June 15, 2023

REPORT NO.: 101

ATTENTION: Parks and Recreation Board Agenda of June 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Reallocation of funds for Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control Emergency Project (revised)

### SUMMARY

Issue – Should the San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund Oversight Committee approve the recommendation to reallocate \$1,727,000.00 Regional Park Improvement Fund to the following project:

- Balboa Park – Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control, CIP# B23122

Department Recommendation – Approve the recommendation to allocate \$1,727,000.00 of Regional Park Improvement Fund to the project listed in this report.

Fiscal Impact – The reallocation of Regional Park Improvement Fund will allow for the project to continue to its next phase.

Water and Energy Conservation Status – Not applicable.

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Impact – Not applicable.

Strategic/Tactical Equity Plan Impact – Not applicable.

Environmental – The proposed activity which involves the reallocation of Regional Park Improvement Funds is not subject to CEQA based on CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4) as it is a government fiscal activity which does not involve any commitment to a specific project that may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and therefore is not subject to CEQA pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3). The Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control emergency project for which this reallocation of funding is intended for will be subject to environmental review in accordance with the City's Land Development Code and CEQA Guidelines Section 15004, which provides direction to lead agencies on the appropriate timing for environmental review.

### BACKGROUND

The San Diego Regional Park Improvement Fund (RPIF) is one of two capital improvement project funds to receive revenues from leaseholds in Mission Bay Park. The other fund is the

Mission Bay Park Improvement Fund (MBPIF) for specific improvements in Mission Bay Park.

The two funds were established by voter approval of revisions to the City Charter, Article V, Section 55.2 (Charter Section 55.2). The initial Charter 55.2 became effective on July 1, 2009 under Proposition C, and a subsequent amendment to Charter 55.2 became effective after voters approved Measure J on November 8, 2016, with those amendments going into effect on December 19, 2016.

Mission Bay lease revenues are allocated by a formula based on Charter Section 55.2 as follows:

- Initial \$20 million of Mission Bay lease revenues goes into the City's General Fund and may be used for any municipal purpose
- Next \$3.5 million goes to RPIF (total lease revenue is \$23.5 million)
- Next \$6.5 million goes to MBPIF (total lease revenue is \$30 million)
- Revenue received thereafter is split at a ratio of 35% to RPIF and 65% to MBPIF

The following parks are eligible for use of RPIF, in accordance with Charter Section 55.2(a)(9) and Ordinances O-20088, O-20311, and O-21372:

- Balboa Park (Charter)
- Beaches and Shoreline Parks (Charter)
- Chicano Park (O-20311)
- Chollas Creek Watershed Parks (O-21372)
- Chollas Lake Park (Charter)
- Mission Trails Regional Park (Charter)
- Open Space Parks (Charter)
- Otay Valley Regional Park (Charter)
- Presidio Park (Charter)
- San Diego River Park (Charter)
- Torrey Pines City Park (O-20088)

The purpose of the RPIF is to support capital improvement projects within the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for regional parks, as identified in the City Charter or by City Council Ordinance.

#### DISCUSSION

Department staff recommends \$1,727,000 of RPIF be allocated to allow the initiation of the new CIP project. This involves reducing allocations in six projects and increasing allocations in one project.

The reduced allocations come from the following projects:

- L18001 Chollas Lake Improvements- \$500,000.00 in project savings will be transferred from this project. This project is completed and does not need this funding.

- ABT00001 City Facilities Improvements- \$22,754.96 in project savings from B17181 Casa De Balboa Fire Alarm System will be transferred from this project. This project is completed and does not need this funding.
- B20120 Kellogg Comfort Station Improvements- \$79,685.84 in project savings will be transferred from this project. This project is completed and does not need this funding.
- S13008 Mohnike Adobe and Barn Restoration- \$915,284.32 will be borrowed from this project. It will not impact the project's status. Funds will be returned to the project via the Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Council Action. This project is currently in design and environmental review. It is not anticipated to reach construction until July 2024.
- AGF00005 Regional Park Improvements- \$39,843.52 from interest earnings on revenue collected.
- L14005 Sunset Cliffs Park Drainage Improvements- \$169,431.36 will be borrowed from this project. It will not impact the project's status. Funds will be returned to the project via the Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Council Action. This project is currently in design and environmental review. It is not anticipated to reach construction until December 2025.

Additionally, \$273,000.00 in Debt Funding will be added from B20117 Balboa Park Comfort Stations Improvements. These funds will be proposed to return to the project via the Fiscal Year 2024 CIP Mid-Year Council Action.

The increased allocations, which if approved would be added to the City's CIP through a separate council action, is recommended to be as follows:

- *Balboa Park – Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control, CIP# B23122*

*\$1,727,000 for Fiscal Year 2023*

**Scope:** During the winter storms of 2022-2023, storm water washed away sections of the slope adjacent to the Quince Drive offramp from State Route 163 just below the Trees for Life Garden and Cypress Grove Picnic Area in Balboa Park. City staff deemed the road unsafe for traffic and subsequently closed it in coordination with Caltrans; this offramp remains closed currently. An emergency was declared (see Attachment "Quince Drive Emergency Memo") as this offramp is part of a primary route to the hospitals located in Hillcrest. As such, addressing slope runoff, rebuilding the damaged areas of the slope and trail network, and reopening the road once the slope is stabilized is a priority.

The project provides for the acquisition of civil/geotechnical engineering consultant services to evaluate/provide recommendations, and a construction contract to address stabilizing the slope and fixing drainage issues. Any repairs to the road will be completed using Commercial Paper of General Fund to adhere to Charter Section 55.2 (d), which states: "Funds in the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund may be expended only for non-commercial public Capital Improvements for the San Diego Regional Parks and only for park uses. Funds in the San Diego Regional Parks Improvement Fund may not be expended for commercial enterprises or improvements of leasehold interests; for any costs associated with utilities, including,

but not limited to, water and sewage; or for roads, vehicle bridges, or vehicular ramps; or on daily, weekly, monthly, or annual upkeep of the San Diego Regional Parks.”

**Financial:** This is a new project and the initial allocation of RPIF. The Department has allocated \$800,000 in Commercial Paper and General Fund to initiate this project.

**Status:** This project is currently being initiated. The recommended funding allocation of RPIF will go towards construction of the improvements.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the recommendation to allocate \$1,727,000 of funding to Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control.
2. Do not approve the recommendation to allocate \$1,727,000 of funding to Quince Drive Run-Off Erosion Control.
3. Recommend alternative allocations to specific eligible capital projects.

Respectfully submitted,



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Andy Field  
Director  
Parks and Recreation Department

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Prepared by: Ryan Barbrick  
Supervising Management Analyst  
Parks and Recreation Department



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: March 3, 2023

TO: Rania Amen, Director and City Engineer, Engineering and Capital Projects Department

FROM: Andy Field, Director, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Request for Emergency Declaration for Quince Drive Slope Failure in West Mesa of Balboa Park

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As a result of winter season rains in late December 2022 and January 2023, the slope along the western edge of State Route 163 (Cabrillo Freeway) partially failed because of heavy runoff. This slope carries the Quince Drive offramp from northbound State Route 163 into the West Mesa of Balboa Park, linking the freeway to Balboa Drive and Sixth Avenue. This important link connects the freeway system to Uptown, Bankers Hill, and Hillcrest. Since the runoff impacted the slope adjacent to and possibly beneath the Quince Drive Offramp, this memorandum requests expedited Public Works contracting to investigate the slope erosion and roadway undermining and make the necessary urgent repairs sufficient to reopen Quince Drive and the freeway offramp.

**Quince Drive Offramp**

State Route 163 (Cabrillo Freeway) traverses Balboa Park between Interstate 5 and the Upas Street pedestrian overcrossing through Cabrillo Canyon. Two exits depart the freeway along this stretch, the first linking to Quince Drive traveling northwest, and the second linking to Richmond Street traveling northeast. The Quince Drive offramp carries 2,150 Average Daily Trips (ADT) as of 2016. This is a principal route leading into Balboa Park West Mesa, Bankers Hill, Hillcrest, and Uptown. Links from Interstate 5 to State Route 163 allow drivers to access the Quince Drive offramp for trips from the South Bay, Chula Vista, and National City to the locations served by Quince Drive. Since the offramp and the connection to Sixth Avenue are fully located within Balboa Park, Quince Drive is not in the public rights of way and is instead classified as a park road. Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of Quince Drive.

**Storm Damage**

Winter storms brought substantial rain to San Diego beginning in the last week of December 2022 and have continued into March 2023. These rains have impacted Quince Drive by carrying large amounts of storm water downhill toward the freeway. Uncontrolled stormwater runoff entered cracks in the pavement and eroded the subgrade below the roadbed and washed an unknown amount of subgrade material from beneath the pavement and down the adjacent slope.

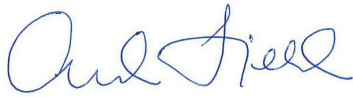
Subsequent field visits by geologists from the Development Services Department determined that sufficient material had been eroded away to create significant voids beneath the pavement to the point that the roadway needed to be closed to all vehicular traffic

(Attachment 1). The rains possibly created voids below the offramp and sloughed off mud and debris below the offramp. In addition, the current closure of Quince Drive presents potential traffic impacts to the northbound State Route 163 as the road is a direct extension to the state route offramp.

**Request**

Based on preliminary observations, the necessary in-depth geotechnical investigation and potential repairs are beyond the capabilities of the Parks and Recreation Department; therefore we request that an emergency project be initiated to determine the cause and perform the remedy to address the storm damage to the Quince Drive offramp. This would include an investigation and report by a licensed geotechnical engineer to assess the extent of the voids and erosion limits within the roadway and obtain a contractor to provide necessary repairs so that the offramp and roadway can be reopened. Because the failed section traverses a slope, and the slope adjacent the paved roadway has eroded, interim repairs to reopen the road are not considered feasible without geotechnical engineering recommendations beyond what City staff can provide.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Michelle Abella-Shon, Program Manager at (619) 964-7670 or me at (619) 235-1110.



Andy Field  
Director, Parks and Recreation Department

Attachment: 1. Site memo from DSD geologist  
2. Email Correspondence with Caltrans

cc: Kris McFadden, Deputy Chief Operating Officer  
Kristina Peralta, Deputy Chief Operating Officer  
Jessica Lawrence, Director of Finance Policy & Council Affairs, Office of the Mayor  
Michaela Valk, Director of Community Engagement, Office of the Mayor  
Ally Berenter, Public Policy Manager, Office of the Mayor  
Angela Colton, Director, Risk Management Department  
Jorge Riveros, Director, Transportation Department  
Rolando Charvel, Director and City Comptroller, Department of Finance  
Myrna Dayton, Assistant Director, Engineering and Capital Projects Department  
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Michelle Abella-Shon, Program Manager, Parks and Recreation Department  
Paul Jacob, Associate Civil Engineer, Parks and Recreation Department